

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A video image coding apparatus, comprising:

image dividing means for dividing an input video image signal into a plurality of image divisions;

a plurality of coding sections for individually compression encoding the plurality of image divisions outputted from said image dividing means;

multiplexing means for multiplexing the plurality of compression encoded data from said coding sections to reconstruct compression encoded data and outputting the compression encoded data as a compression stream; and

coordinated coding control means for receiving some or all of coding parameters, image status parameters and coding result parameters which are extracted from said plurality of said coding sections, and adjusting the parameters to be used for compression encoding by said coding sections in a control period or under a control condition determined in advance in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections.

2 (original). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coordinated coding control means controls information amounts to be allocated to said coding sections.

3 (original). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said coordinated coding control means provides an upper limit value and/or a lower limit value to the information amounts to be allocated to said coding sections.

4 (original). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coordinated coding control means controls buffer amounts to be allocated to said coding sections.

5 (original). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said coordinated coding control means provides an upper limit value and/or a lower limit value to the buffer amounts to be allocated to said coding sections.

6 (withdrawn). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for recording the coding parameters and/or the image status parameters of those image portions whose coding has been completed by said coding sections, and wherein said coordinated coding control means performs coding control so that the coding parameters of those image portions which are to be coded subsequently by said coding sections may be proximate to the coding parameters of adjacent image portions.

B 7 (withdrawn). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said coordinated coding control means uses, for the coding control, the coding parameters and/or the image status parameters of those image portions of the same frame or field image whose coding has been completed already.

8 (withdrawn). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said coordinated coding control means uses, for the coding control, the coding parameters and/or the image status parameters of a frame or field image in the past and of the same frame or field image.

9 (withdrawn). A video image coding apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said coordinated coding control means performs the coding control since a time at which coding of an image of an object of processing at present is started using the coding parameters and/or the image status parameters of a frame or field image in the past.